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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**TWO CHARGED IN BANK BRIBERY SCHEME**

**PRESS RELEASE**

Susan W. Brooks, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana, announced that BLAINE M. BOURNE, 48, Liberty, Indiana and PHILLIP P. LUCAS, 41, Chattanooga, Tennessee were charged today with bank bribery, following an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The information alleges that BLAINE M. BOURNE, in his capacity as assistant vice president and loan officer of Bath State Bank in Franklin County, Indiana, obtained two loans in his own name from Bath State Bank and immediately transferred the funds to PHILLIP P. LUCAS, a business acquaintance and sometimes business partner, who did not qualify for the loans. In exchange, BOURNE was paid a total of \$8,000 for procuring the loans.

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In the first case, occurring on March 28, 2000, Bourne obtained a loan in the amount of \$35,000 and transferred the funds to Lucas' construction business. In exchange for this service, Lucas paid Bourne a bribe of \$5,000 on May 4, 2000.

In the second case, on the day after the first bribe was paid, Bourne obtained a loan in his name in the amount of \$30,000 and, again, transferred the funds to Lucas' construction business. Lucas paid a bribe of \$3,000 to Bourne on August 25, 2000 in exchange for this service.

Brooks said, "Bank officials are individuals we trust and believe in. It is disturbing to have allegations indicating that they can be susceptible to bribery."

According to Assistant United States Attorney James M. Warden, who is prosecuting the case for the government, BOURNE and LUCAS each face a maximum possible prison sentence of 30 years and a maximum possible fine of \$1,000,000. An initial hearing will be scheduled before a U.S. Magistrate Judge in Indianapolis.

**The information is an allegation only, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty at trial or by guilty plea.**

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